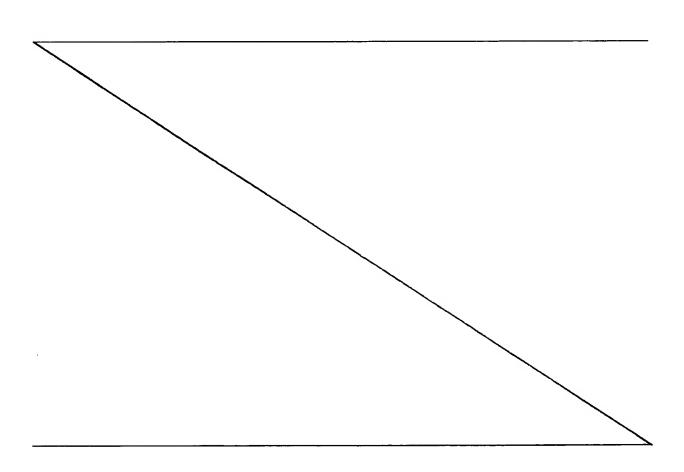
## **REMARKS**

- 1. Claims 1-8, 18-30, 37-42 have been cancelled without prejudice.
- 2. Claims 9 and 31 (allowable subject matter for the apparatus and method respectively) have been re-written in independent form so as to include the limitations of the intermediate claims. All other amended and added new claims include further limitations to the amended claims 9 and 31, namely:
- 3. New claims 43-46 include further limitations corresponding to the cancelled claims 2-6, and new claims 47-50 include further limitation corresponding to the cancelled claims 25-29.



Applicant submits that he has hereby overcome the Examiner's objections by complying with the Examiner's suggestions. An early allowance is therefore courteously requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any prescribed fees for these amendments from our Company's **Deposit Account No. 501832**.

Yours truly, NG, E.K.H., et al

By: Victoria Donnelly

Patent Agent Reg. No. 44,185

VD/tk.

c/o TROPIC NETWORKS INC., Intellectual Property Department 135 Michael Cowpland Drive Kanata, Ontario, Canada. K2M 2E9

Date:

May 7, 2004.

Telephone:

(613) 270-6026 (613) 270-9663

FAX: e-mail:

Victoria.Donnelly@tropicnetworks.com